

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the continued funding of the **Off Highway Vehicle Enforcement Team, Law Enforcement, Palmdale.**

My town of Agua Dulce, California, has a population of about 4,000 people and we have one resident sheriff to patrol our entire area. This area is a rural equestrian community with mountainous terrain, vast vegetation and mostly dirt roads. Local residents live here to enjoy the Pacific Crest Trails, Angeles National Forest, and the other informal trail systems maintained for equestrians. However, the serenity of this rural nature is often destroyed by illegal motor vehicles and their frequent criminal behavior.

Here are a few incidents the OHV team assisted with this year. A large, organized motorcycle ride was cited by the team. That day, I saw 7 motorcycle riders ride up to and intentionally swarm a group of 3 equestrians just to harass the horseback riders. In addition, that same group of motorcyclists went on to trespass on my neighbors' property, destroy her gates, cut off chains and locks, break fencing, let her livestock loose, and were confrontational to the property owners. We need OHV teams to access these areas because a patrol car physically cannot utilize these trails to track down the wrongdoers. After OHV issued citations from that incident, we experienced a significant drop in motorcycle riding.

In addition to needing the OHV for targeting the off-road nuisance, we also need their services as a law enforcement presence in our area. The team has investigated a variety of other types of illegal activity for us: a stolen freightliner that was abandoned in my area, trespassers on our property and illegal dumping and burning nearby. Our community is often targeted by criminals because we have only 1 deputy assigned to us and the larger stations are so far away that the response times are long. The criminals have engaged in home invasion robberies to mailbox theft here. The more present the law enforcement units, hopefully the more deterrence of crime.

As an equestrian and trail runner, I often think about emergency situations that can occur out in the open area here. My family knows if I were not to return from one of my outdoor adventures, to contact Sgt. Acton because he knows these trails as well as the locals. I know he could find me faster than a regular patrol. Having this unit available isn't just for crime fighting, but also for emergency situations.

Finally, I want to thank the OHV and specifically Sgt. Jeff Acton for the continued communication with my family to help us feel safe and secure in our area. Due to the hostile nature of the off-road trespassers, I often feel vulnerable to their threatening behavior. However, Sgt. Acton is only a phone call away and that gives me peace of mind. Even when he isn't on duty, he gets a patrol unit to us as soon as possible. I like personally knowing the law enforcement officers who are protecting my family

and relying on them for our safety. Sgt. Acton exemplifies community-based policing and our community NEEDS this unit!



Sincerely,
The Calnan Family